

COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA

May 31, 2011

LOCAL 6222



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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Mr. Chairman and Commissioners of the FCC:

I am writing today on behalf of CWA's 4,000-member Local 6222 in Houston to express our support for AT&T's merger with T-Mobile, the U.S.-based subsidiary of Germany's Deutsche Telekom. We agree with CWA President Larry Cohen's recent testimony before a congressional panel that the merger will accelerate broadband deployment, benefit consumers, and positively impact employees.

This decision by AT&T, the only national wireless carrier with a unionized workforce, helps us achieve several of our most important goals:

- Improve the standard of living for our current and future members;
- Organize new workers into the Union to bring the benefits of collective bargaining to the unorganized; and
- Reaffirm our commitment to universal service so that all Americans have equal access to the information highway.

The merger is a clear victory for Union workers, as it shows that a company can continue to provide negotiated benefits and salaries to its employee even in a highly competitive, often cutthroat industry. We will be able to welcome T-Mobile's employees into our family, extending to them the benefits of organization and collective bargaining. The combined company will also extend mobile broadband coverage to an additional 55 million more Americans than either company planned before the merger. We have long supported expanded broadband coverage, and the merger permits this goal – indeed, a goal of President Obama's administration – to be achieved more quickly. This expansion will require our hands and labors.

We have often raised our voice to this agency, the White House, and our representatives in Congress when public policy issues can impact investments and jobs in the communications industry. We have been consistent in our support of policies, which support increased investment, job creation, and union membership. This merger has the promise of accomplishing all three, and we hope the FCC will approve this transaction that is so important to America's unionized workforce.

Sincerely,

Claude Cummings, Jr.
President

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